

DRAWING AMENDMENTS

Please amend FIG. 23 as highlighted in red on the Annotated Marked-up Drawings Sheet attached hereto and reflected in the Replacement Sheet also attached hereto. An explanation of these amendments along with support in the specification for these amendments is provided below.

Pease delete block "Virtual Tape Drive Empty?" and associated connecting lines, labels and reference numeral 2305. This block is not referenced in Spec. ¶[0070].

Please add block "Prevent Media Removal Active?" and block "Report Illegal Request" and associated connecting lines, labels and reference numerals 2310, 2312. *See* Spec. ¶[0070], as amended:

if the load bit is set to zero, the prevent media removal state of the virtual tape drive is checked to allow the virtual tape drive to be unloaded. If prevent media removal is active **2310**, the unload command is terminated with a check condition status with a request sense data buffer constructed to report an illegal request **2312** error condition; and the request sense data buffer flag is set to a valid state. If prevent media removal is not active, the volume data management table is updated **2315**

Further, please combine block 2315 and block 2325 as a single block 2315, deleting reference numeral 2325 not referenced in the specification. Add a connecting line to block 2335. *See* Spec. ¶[0070], as amended:

If prevent media removal is not active, the volume data management table is updated **2315** to record any pending write operations and the volume management table is updated to indicate the virtual tape drive is empty **2315**. If the previous virtual tape volume was not the last volume **2335** . . .

Finally, for readability, please allow the relocation on the Replacement Sheet of the resulting blocks, connecting lines and reference numerals as compared to the Annotated Marked-up Drawings Sheet.

REMARKS

In the office action (OA) mailed 11/03/2005, claims 1-15 were pending. The OA rejected claims 1-13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Claim 14 was objected to but stated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant has cancelled claims 1-13 and 15 without prejudice. Applicant has also rewritten claim 14 in independent form, retaining the stated allowable subject matter.

Further, FIG. 23 and corresponding paragraph [0070] are amended as cited and supported above and as set forth in the Annotated Marked-up Drawings Sheet and Replacement Sheet attached hereto. In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 14 is in condition for allowance. Applicant requests that this application be passed to issuance. If, however, the Examiner believes that any issue remains that requires clarification, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

LAW OFFICE OF GLENN R. SMITH

Dated:

03/03/2006

By:



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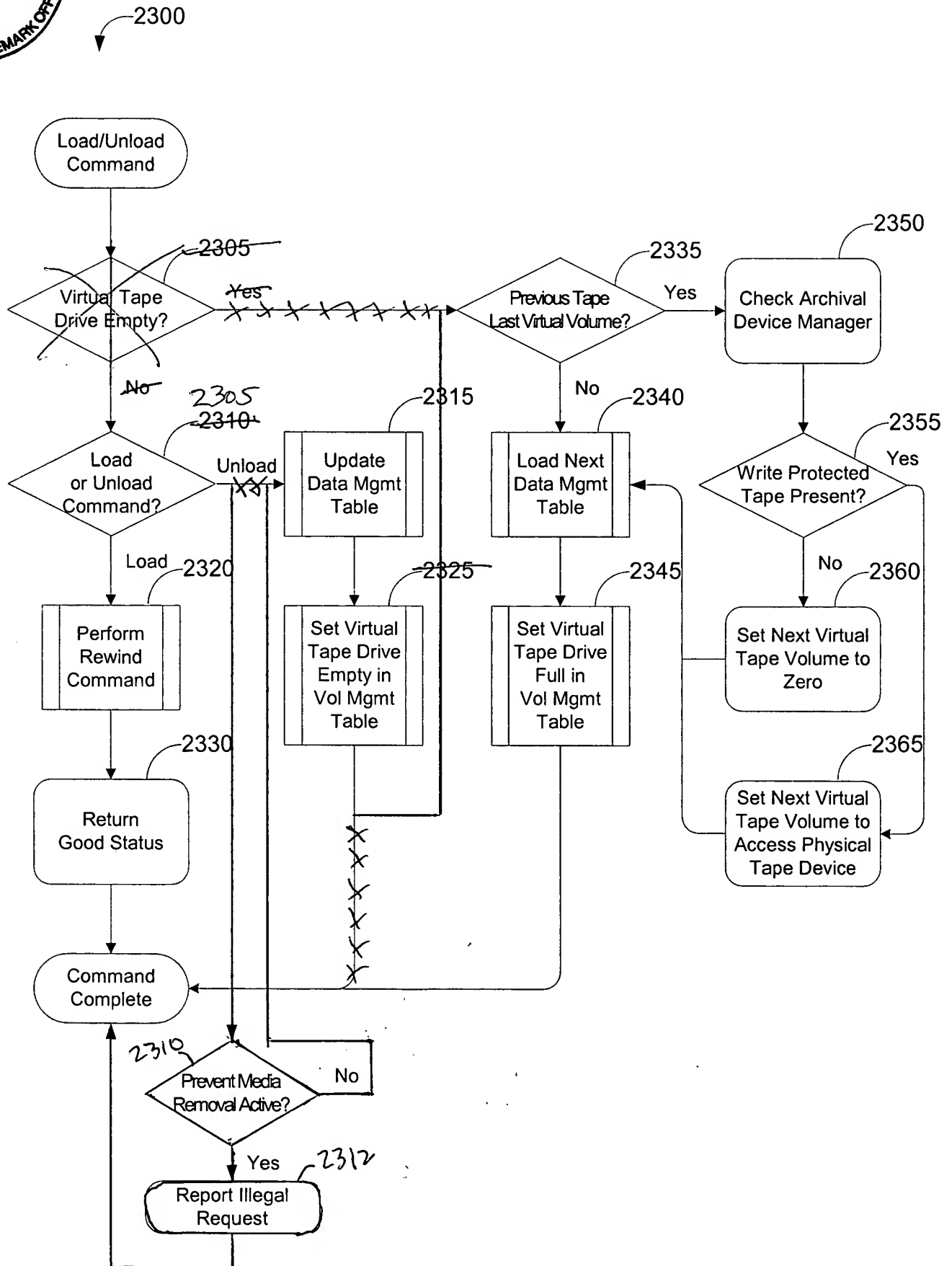


FIG. 23